

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING
CENTER OF CHATHAM 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to congratulate the Early Childhood Learning Center in Chatham for its 25 years of service.

The ECLC is an accredited, non-profit organization that strives to educate students ages 5 to 21 with moderate to severe learning and/or language disabilities.

In 1970, a group of devoted parents formed the ECLC of New Jersey as a means of providing early intervention services to pre-school children. By 1983 the ECLC expanded its services to offer classes for children up to age 16. Today the ECLC accepts over 700 students in New Jersey. The Chatham Campus alone educates over 220 students; plus 26 adult clients in enrichment classes. This organization has come a long way from its small six-student pre-school.

The success of this organization can be attributed to its innovative and extensive programs. ECLC takes a unique approach to education by promoting self-sufficiency and success. The pre-vocational program called SKIL (Seeking Knowledge for Independent Living) teaches appropriate work-related behaviors and places students in volunteer jobs in the community. Students have the opportunity to participate in after-school activities, such as bowling, sleepovers, and dinner and a movie, where they can have fun with friends, instead of watching from the sidelines. Because of the small classroom sizes, the students receive the attention they need. The student-teacher ratio at the schools is 4:1 with the maximum number of 12 students per class. As a result of this intimate environment, the students feel comfortable to learn and explore.

Graduates of the ECLC participate in Alumni Activities, which give them a chance to get together with old friends by participating in dances, bingo, or movie night. The relationships made at the ECLC do not end once the students graduate, and the ECLC seeks to promote these bonds. In addition to Alumni Activities, Community Personnel Services, helps graduates find jobs in their home communities and coaches them to success. Evening Adult Enrichment classes are offered to alumni to further their education in subjects, such as computers, cooking, painting, reading, and banking, so they can continue their path of learning for an independent future.

The men and women at the ECLC of Chatham deserve both recognition and praise. Without these hard working and dedicated individuals, the ECLC would not be as successful as it is today. They help our fellow citizens become independent and educated despite mental challenges. For 25 years, these committed individuals have worked both in the classroom and behind the scenes to ensure that their students lead happy and meaningful lives. The Foundation raises money with their annual fund-raising events, which include gala dinners organized by staff and parents; a summer golf outing; and the Chatham Jaycees "Fishawack" 4-mile run. The enthusiasm and dedication of the ECLC teachers and staff en-

sure the future success of this important organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Early Childhood Learning Center in Chatham as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 10th, 2014, I was unable to cast votes for the following amendments:

Denham Amendment, rollcall vote 288. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Blackburn Amendment, rollcall vote 289. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Schock Amendment, rollcall vote 290. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gosar Amendment No. 1, rollcall vote 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gosar Amendment No. 2, rollcall vote 292. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Schiff Amendment, rollcall vote 293. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Sessions Amendment, rollcall vote 294. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Gingrey Amendment, rollcall vote 295. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I was also unable to cast votes for the following:

Democratic Motion to Recommit. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Final Passage of H.R. 4745, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF GINA DUNCAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Gina Duncan. She was born into a large family in Cookeville, Tennessee on October 24, 1955. Gina was originally named Greg Pingston at birth by his parents, Edward and Rae Pingston. Along with his two brothers and two sisters, he lived in 12 states and Europe before the family settled in Merritt Island, Florida in 1964.

At an early age, "Greg" excelled in sports and leadership. At Merritt Island High School in 1973, "Greg" was class president as well as the captain and middle linebacker of an undefeated state championship high school football team. His senior year, he was named to the Florida All-State Team. "Greg" received a football scholarship to East Carolina University and started as strong safety under Head Coach, Pat Dye. While at East Carolina, "Greg" was also elected Student Government Vice President, becoming the first non-fraternity/sorority elected officer.

In 1977, "Greg" returned to Central Florida to start a family and his career in mortgage

banking. He was named Central Florida Area Manager for Wells Fargo and Company in 1997, and was promoted to Regional Manager for the firm in 2006, overseeing 26 branches, 250 employees and a multi-million dollar budget. During that time, "Greg" served on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Florida Home Builders Association and as President of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Central Florida.

After a lifelong struggle with gender identity disorder, in 2007, Greg Pingston transitioned to her authentic self, Gina Leigh Duncan.

Since her gender transition, Ms. Duncan has been a visible and articulate advocate for the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender communities. Gina was the first transgender president of a major chamber of commerce in the country, being elected to head the Metropolitan Business Association in 2010. Gina also served on the National Business Council of the Human Rights Campaign and on the Central Florida Steering Committee of Equality Florida.

In 2012, Ms. Duncan retired from mortgage banking and ran for public office. Garnering over 40% of the vote in an unsuccessful bid for the office of Orange County Commissioner, she was the first openly transgender candidate to run for office in Central Florida.

Also in 2012, Ms. Duncan released her first book entitled, *Attraversiamo*, "Let's Cross Over": A Story of Gender Transition.

Gina Duncan is now the Transgender Inclusion Director for Equality Florida, the state's largest LGBT advocacy organization. She is recognized as a national and international corporate trainer and speaker specializing in corporate transgender inclusion. She works with major corporations, elected officials, school boards, colleges, universities and non-profit organizations to improve knowledge and understanding of the transgender journey; and the development of competencies in supporting transgender people in the workplace. She provides firsthand knowledge of the dynamics of the transgender community, with the belief that embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace allows people to be their true selves. This provides for an open and equal corporate culture, and increases economic well-being in society overall.

I am happy to honor Gina Duncan, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community and to furthering equality in corporate culture.

HONORING MS. KAREN KALLENS,
RN, AND THE HUNTERDON COUNTY
MEDICATION ACCESS PART-
NERSHIP

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Kallens, RN, for her outstanding contributions to Hunterdon Medical Center and the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership. Ms. Kallens has been committed to underserved patients in Hunterdon County. As coordinator of the Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership, Ms. Kallens has brought prescription medication assistance and access and disease education to many residents in need.